Now we come to the all important subject of roads. You say that there is only a provision of Rs. 5,000 in the budget for this year. I think you take only new works and if you look at the incomplete works as well, there is a good deal more. For instance I will refer to one item, a bridge over the Lalom-Ponkunnam road. Rs. 46,000 has been sanctioned and Rs. 10,700 has been spent in 1101, Rs. 15,000 in 1102, and Rs. 15,000 in 1103. As a matter of fact, I understand that the work is being pushed rapidly through as you said yourself. No doubt, there are many bridges in which money could be spent. But the pressure on the Department of Public Works is so great that they find it difficult to cope with all at the same time. The Chief Engineer proposes to draw up a working programme and when that programme comes up he will do what he can with regard to Minachil.

There are several roads here in the list. I will go over them as quickly as I can. Some of these matters require to be investigated. In regard to the Marangattupalli-Uzhavur road, that has to be investigated.

In regard to the road from Atirampuzha-Lalom road, 4th mile, to the Marangattupalli road, the road has been taken over for maintenance and estimates for the improvement of the bank are under preparation. So too with the extension of the road from Gudalloor to Marangattupalli.

In regard to the Erattupetta-Melukavu road, the estimates are now being prepared.

As regards the Plasanal-Mankompu road the Chief Engineer states that this road is 4 miles long and has been taken over for maintenance and that the road is full of steep gradients.

In regard to the road from the Lalom-Todupuzha road, 4th mile, to Melukavu, the Chief Engineer says that the length of the road is six miles and that three miles have been improved and made fit for carts and that the rest of the road will be improved in the course of this year.

As regards the conversion of the ryots' road and assumption of the same by Government the road from the Lalom-Ramapuram road, 1st mile, to the Marangattupalli-Uzhavur road, there are certain deviations to be made in the road as cut by the people. As soon as these deviations are carried out the question of taking them up for maintenance will be considered.

With regard to the Lalam-Ramapuram road, 1st mile, to Vellilapalli the difficulty was that some of the people would not give land free. These lands are being acquired. Meanwhile the estimates for culverts are under preparation.

As regards the Atirampuzha-Lalom road, it has got to be inspected before it is taken up. So too with the Kozhuvanal-Cherppunkal road.

As regards the opening of a new road from the Puliyannur T. B. along the trace to the Minachil taluk cutcherry, if the people will surrender the land free the P. W. D. will take up the question of the construction of the road.

In regard to the road from the head of Lalom-Ponkunnam road to the Kidangur temple, the Chief Engineer is having estimates for the second and third sections and as soon as they are scrutinised sanction will be accorded.

For the Forest Depot at Palai, the Conservator intends to take an early opportunity to come to Minachil and enquire into the location of the Depot.

130. Needs of the Todupuzha taluk.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Todupuzha taluk*) spoke on the following needs of the Todupuzha taluk :—

(1) (*a*) The local dispensary should be converted into a district hospital. This was a subject which was brought before the Assembly on several occasions, but nothing was done yet.

(*b*) New dispensaries should be opened at Kudyatur and Karimannur.

(2) (*a*) An additional shed should be constructed in the local English school.

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(*b*) The local vernacular middle school for boys should be provided with better accommodation. A tiffin shed should also be attached to the school.

(*c*) The standard of the local vernacular primary school for girls should be raised. In regard to this school the local public were now in a very unfortunate situation. When they applied to the Inspectress of Schools for raising the standard of the school, she wanted them to put up the necessary buildings. But when the buildings were completed, the Director turned round and asked them under what authority they raised the new buildings. The buildings were put up with great difficulty but only to meet with disappointment.

(*d*) A special school for Mahomedan pupils should be opened at Todupuzha.

(*e*) A primary school for boys should be opened at Kodikulam.

(3) So far as the Department of Agriculture was concerned, a veterinary hospital and a manure depot should be opened at Todupuzha. The manure depot should be put in the charge of an Inspector. Agricultural loans should also be granted more liberally.

(4) In regard to the Police Department, what was necessary was the opening of police out-posts at Vazhakulam, Kudyattur and Karimannur.

(5) Another of the needs of the taluk was the shifting of the Sub-registrar's office from the Satrom.

(6) In conclusion, Thodupuzha should be formed into a separate constituency for the Legislative Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Pillai, you have brought to my notice the fact that on more than one occasion, you have said that a hospital is necessary at Todupuzha. But I see that when the new building was sanctioned, it was only for a dispensary and not a hospital. Now the Administrative Board think that the number of patients in the hospital does not justify the raising of the dispensary to a hospital.

MEMBER: What is the minimum number of patients necessary?

DEWAN: I do not think there is any hard and fast rule in the matter.

MEMBER: Our dispensary has got 25,000 patients whereas Muvattupuzha has got only less.

DEWAN: There are various considerations which influence the Board in this matter. And they are the best judges to advise Government as they have wide experience. In any case, I will give you this ray of hope: that the whole question of hospitals and dispensaries in Travancore is shortly to come under revision.

You want one dispensary at Kudayattur and another at Karimannur. These matters will be considered.

I shall have enquiries made at once as to the curious position which has arisen in connection with the girls' school as described by you. There must be some reason and I shall try to find out what it is.

You want extra accommodation in the boys' school and a tiffin shed. I shall ask the Director to consider it at once and report to Government. The trouble about opening a veterinary hospital at Todupuzha is that the constitution of the department does not permit the opening of more veterinary hospitals in this region. As you know there is already one at Kottayam, one at Minachil, one at Alleppey and a fourth at Perumpavur.

If there is a competent agent there who is prepared to undertake the sale of manures, the Agricultural Department will be only too pleased to entrust the sale of manures on commission.

The revision of the rules connected with agricultural loans will have to be taken up sooner or later. But it cannot be taken up in connection with one taluk alone. It has to be taken up in connection with the whole of Travancore. But the six per cent interest is very moderate.

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As regards the question of a police out-post, the Commissioner of Police is not in favour of the multiplication of police outposts, especially as any increase in number means that the supervision will fall, as he will have to put constables in charge. The Commissioner of Police thinks, and the Government agree with him, that the number of out-posts cannot be indiscriminately increased.

The revision of the Todupuzha constituency will have to wait until a change in the electorate comes up.

MEMBER : I suggested three alternatives.

DEWAN : I know that. Todupuzha should be taken up with some unnamed taluk, or that it should be taken up along with some unnamed minority community or that it should stand by itself at the expense of some other constituency.

The location of the Sub-Registrar's office in the Satrom is a temporary arrangement. As soon as adequate arrangements can be made to secure accommodation elsewhere this arrangement will be stopped. I shall ask the Director of Registration to find accommodation elsewhere. And then this will be shifted.

131. Needs of the Kunnathunad taluk.

MR. V. R. GOPALA PILLAI (*Member, Kunnathunad taluk, Group I*) spoke on the following needs of the Kunnathunad taluk:—

(1) A building should be constructed for the Munsiff's court and the First Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavur.

(2) A bridge should be constructed over the Pulinada canal at Kodanad.

(3) A road should be opened from Karukutti-Ezhattumukham *via* Cheeri, Cheerankode etc.

(4) The M. C. Road should be metalled from the 143rd mile to the *Vallakadavu*.

(5) The Valampur-Mannuparampu village road should be converted into a cart road.

(6) The Ayerapuram-Pulluvazhi village road should also be converted into a cart road.

(7) The First Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavur should not be shifted to Alwaye.

(8) The Perumpavur dispensary should be converted into a District Hospital.

(9) The dispensary sanctioned for Kodanad should be opened inmediately.

(10) The Lower Grade English School at Perumpavur should be raised into a High School.

(11) A departmental Anchal office should be opened at Karukutti.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Gopala Pillai, a new building for the Munsiff's court is being estimated for and the only difficulty in proceeding with the work is to find a suitable location. The Chief Engineer will choose the site after local inspection.

In regard to the construction of a bridge over Pulinada canal at Kodanad the end is being improved and a causeway is being taken up.

In regard to the opening of a road from Karukutty to Ezhattumukam *via* Cheeri, Cheerankode, etc. it has to be investigated.

As regards the metalling of the M. C. road from the 143rd mile to Vallom landing the Chief Engineer thinks that it is not necessary at present.

In regard to the First Class Magistrate's court, I am afraid that in this matter Perumpavur stands by itself against the whole weight of official opinion. The matter has been very carefully considered by the district officers and by the High Court and the conclusion that the Government are inclined to arrive at is the same as that come to by the district officers and by the High Court and that is Alwaye is a more important and more rapidly growing place than Perumpavur and the location of the First Class Magistrate's court at Alwaye will be more useful. After all, the distance bteween

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